

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Twice Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, for data compressing a number of n digital information signals, where $[n \leq 2]$ $n \geq 2$, characterized in that the signal combination means are adapted to cyclically merge one sample of each of the n digital information signals after each other into said composite information signal.

10. (Twice Amended) A data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite

information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

 said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal[], said control signal generation means having an input for receiving said data expanded composite information signal and being adapted to generate said control signal in response to said data expanded composite information signal].

11. (Amended) A data expansion apparatus [as claimed in claim 10,] for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and

second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal, wherein said control signal is representative of a statistical parameter of the data expanded composite signal.

12. (Amended) [Apparatus as claimed in claim 10,] A data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from a number of n digital information signals, where $n \geq 2$, [characterized in that] the n digital information signals including a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite

information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal;

wherein the retrieval means are adapted to cyclically retrieve

one sample of each of the n digital information signals after each other from said data expanded composite information signal.

13. (Amended) [Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that] A data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first

and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal;

wherein the data expansion means comprise lossless expansion means.

14. (Amended) A data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first and a second digital information signal, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal;

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal[], said control signal generation means having an input for receiving said data expanded composite information signal and being adapted to generate said

control signal in response to said data expanded composite information signal];

 said data expansion means comprising lossless expansion means; and said data expansion apparatus further comprising prediction means for carrying out a prediction step on the signal supplied by the lossless expansion means to obtain said data expanded composite information signal.

16. (Amended) [Receiver as claimed in claim 15, wherein the receiver further comprises] A receiver for receiving a data compressed composite information signal from a transmission medium, wherein the receiver comprises a data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the data expansion apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal;

the receiver further comprising:

receiver means for receiving the data compressed composite

information signal from the transmission medium; and
channel decoding means and/or error correction means, for
channel decoding and/or error correcting the data compressed
composite information signal prior to data expanding the data
compressed composite information signal.

17. (Amended) [Receiver as claimed in claim 15, which] A
receiver for receiving a data compressed composite information
signal from a transmission medium, wherein the receiver comprises a
data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data compressed
composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital
information signal and a second digital information signal, formed
from the merging of samples of the first and second digital
information signal after each other, the data expansion apparatus
comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite
information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed
composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite

information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal;

the receiver further comprising receiver means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal from the transmission medium;

wherein the receiver is in the form of a reproducing apparatus

for reproducing the data compressed composite information signal from a track on a record carrier, [comprising] and further comprises reading means for reading the data compressed composite information signal from the record carrier.

20. (Amended) A method of data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first and second digital information signal, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the data compressed composite information signal; data expanding the data compressed composite information signal in response to a control signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal, the data expanded composite information signal comprising samples of the first and second digital information signal merged after each other into one datastream[, and generating said control signal from said data expanded composite information signal].

23. (New) A data expansion apparatus for data expanding a data

compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first digital information signal and a second digital information signal, formed from the merging of samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving the data compressed composite information signal;

data expansion means for data expanding the data compressed composite information signal to obtain a data expanded composite information signal;

retrieval means for retrieving a replica of the first and second digital information signal from the data expanded composite information signal; and

output means for supplying the replicas of at least the first and second digital information signals, wherein the retrieval means are adapted to retrieve individual samples from the data expanded composite signal to obtain said replicas of the at least first and second digital information signals;

said data expansion means having a control input for receiving

a control signal, the data expansion means being adapted to data expand the data compressed composite information signal in response to said control signal to obtain said data expanded composite information signal, control signal generation means being available, for generating said control signal;

wherein the control signal generation means include an input for receiving said data expanded composite information signal and generate the control signal in response to the data expanded composite information signal.

24. (New) The data expansion apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control signal generation means include an input for receiving said data expanded composite information signal and generate the control signal in response to the expanded composite information signal.

25. (New) A method of data expanding a data compressed composite information signal obtained from at least a first and second digital information signal, the method comprising the steps

of:

receiving the data compressed composite information signal;
data expanding the data compressed composite information
signal in response to a control signal to obtain a data expanded
composite information signal, the data expanded composite
information signal comprising samples of the first and second
digital information signal merged after each other into one
datastream; and
generating the control signal from the data expanded composite
information signal.